

Lower Base Line closure is put on hold

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

The closure of a section of Lower Base Line for construction has been temporarily put on hold.

After Milton council heard from concerned residents at its recent meeting, it deferred the third reading of a bylaw that would've extended the temporary closure of the road between Trafalgar Road and Ninth Line from May 7 to July 29.

Construction on this stretch started last year, but since there was a delay in initiating the project due to things like a truck haulage strike and wet weather conditions, the work still isn't finished. The initial closure was in effect from September 13 to May 6, but the road has actually been open to traffic since the winter.

Lower Base Line residents Stan and Gayle Jakaitis appeared before council to voice their concerns on the detrimental affect closing the road now would have on their greenhouse business.

"You know very well if you close the road from May 7 to July 29 there is no greenhouse season," said Ms Jakaitis. "You understand you can't just go around and close roads. You impact people's lives."

Last year, the Town decided to start construction on this section of Lower Base Line after July 1 to minimize the impact on the Jakaitis' greenhouse business.

Mr. Jakaitis suggested deferring the bylaw and said if the Town extended him an invitation to sit down and discuss their concerns, he'd attend.

Council directed staff to meet with the Jakaitises to try to reach a satisfactory solution regarding the road closure, with little delay to construction.

Ward 1 Councillor Brian Penman noted he'd like to see discussions take place immediately.

"I want to have it dealt with as quickly as possible as well," said Mayor Gord Krantz. "Even if I had to call a special council meeting, I would do that."

Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray told council at the April 25 meeting that she doesn't see how anything else but closing the road after July 1 this summer will be an acceptable solution for the couple.

Staff met with the Jakaitises last week to discuss the issue. An e-mail sent from Town Engineering Director Paul Cripps to


the Jakaitises Thursday afternoon said staff will be recommending that council defer the start-up of construction until after July 1. "If the garden centre business is to extend beyond July 1, we would be pleased

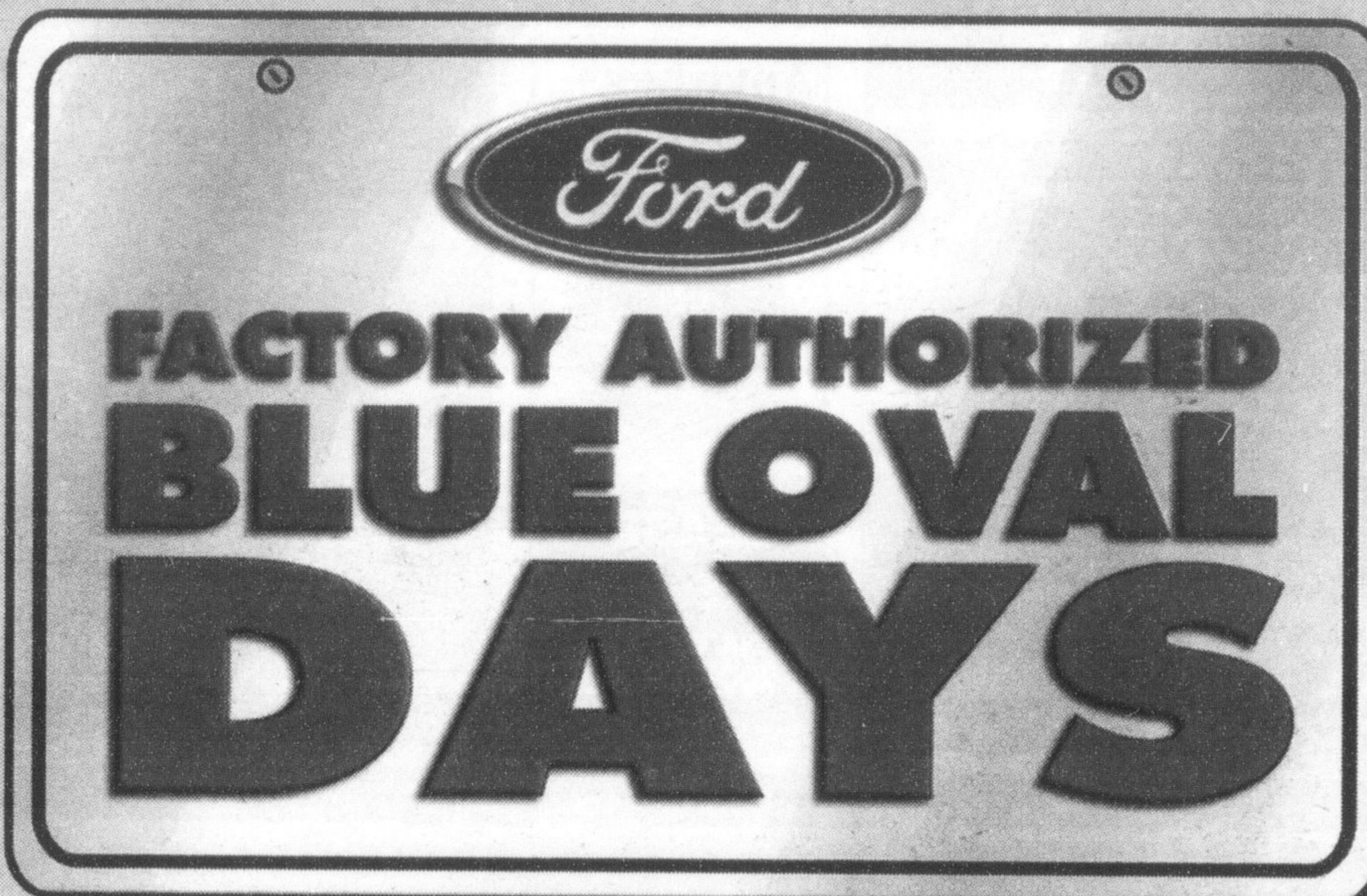
to install appropriate directional signage," the e-mail said.

Council heard from the Jakaitises last year on the Lower Base Line closure as well and its impacts on their Christmas tree

business. At that time, they felt they had no choice but to call off their annual tree sale because of the closure.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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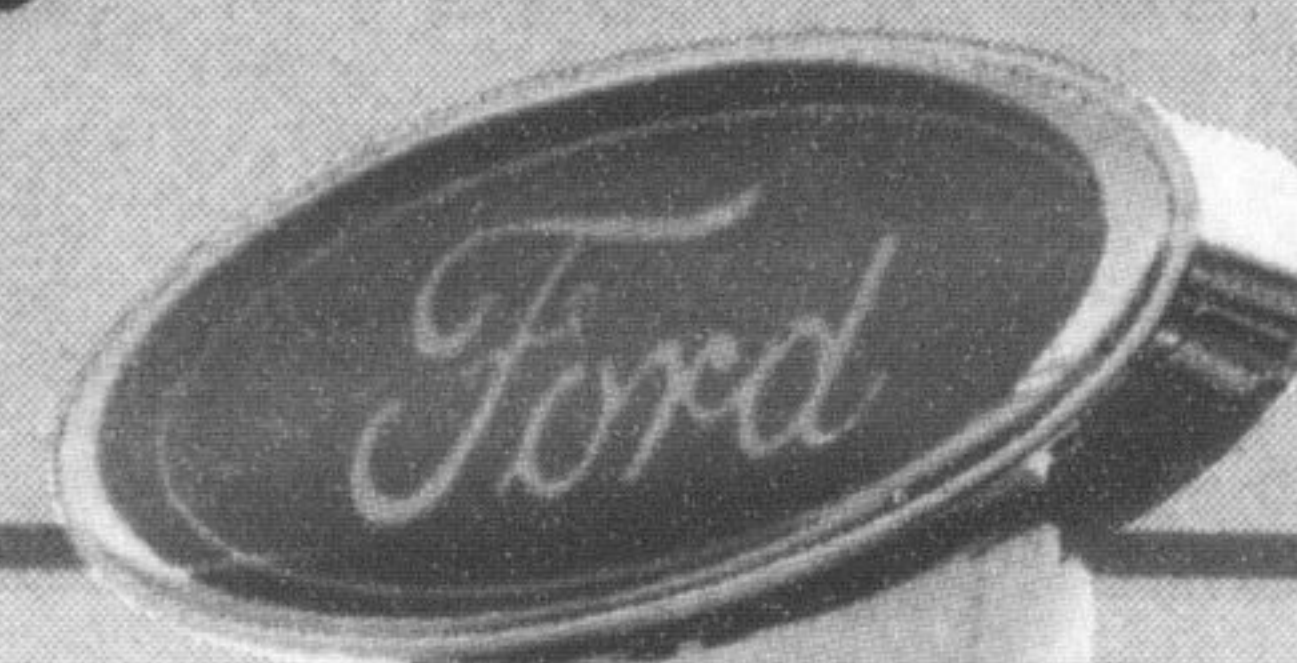
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Participants sought for special day

Applications are now available for Halton Regional Police's annual Special Friends Day, being held June 12 at Country Heritage Park on Tremaine Road.

Special Friends Day provides an opportunity for members of the community with physical/developmental challenges to come together with members of the police service for a day of fun.

Events will be held rain or shine, and participants are reminded to bring sunscreen and bug repellent.

Participation applications — which must be returned by Sunday — are available at www.hrps.on.ca or can be picked up at the police station on Childs Drive, across from Milton Mall. They're also being distributed through schools and community agencies.

Completed forms can be returned to any Halton Regional Police station or mailed to: Special Friends Day, c/o The Halton Regional Police Service, 1151 Bronte Rd., P.O. Box 2700, Oakville, L6J 5C7.